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BUSINESS CASE FOR MEDICAID REFORM BUILDS

Battle Creek Chamber Joins Effort - Government Plan is Costing Businesses Money

West Michigan - The West Michigan Chamber Coalition is pleased to announce that the Board of Directors of the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce has endorsed its *Business Case for Medicaid Reform* paper. The position targets the cost shift by the Medicaid system to employer-sponsored health care plans and argues that Medicaid services must be redesigned to control costs for this ballooning state program. Prevention of further rate cuts to Medicaid reimbursement is critical to covering Michigan's uninsured population and will assist in right-sizing the state budget.

The action by the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce sends a clear message: Medicaid is increasing the cost of health care for businesses, making it harder for them to provide coverage to employees. Reforms are essential and *A Business Case for Medicaid Reform* suggests specific measures that can make a significant difference in the quality and cost of health care.

"Rising health care costs are a top concern among employers. Stopping further cost-shifting to the private sector by government plans like Medicaid is a high priority," said Dennis Durham, Vice President of Business Advocacy for the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce. "Michigan hospitals provided \$2 billion in uncompensated care, mostly due to Medicaid, that was passed on to private insurance payers. This is a real cost that needs to be addressed."

"We must all work together to make Michigan as competitive as possible. One way to do this is to address the problems with Medicaid, and we are excited to have the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce joining us in this effort," said Jane Clark, President of the Holland Area Chamber of Commerce.

A Business Case for Medicaid Reform has also been endorsed by the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and Healthy Kent 2010.

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About the West Michigan Chamber Coalition:

The West Michigan Chamber Coalition is comprised of the Grand Haven Chamber of Commerce, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, Holland Area Chamber of Commerce and Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber Coalition joined forces in 2005 to advocate on behalf of West Michigan businesses and speaks with the voice of over 6,000 business members with nearly 250,000 employees.